GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2781
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2008
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE BY KOSOVO
Das Gupta Shri Gurudas

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kosovo has declared its independence from Serbia and has become the 193rd country in the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the names of countries that have recognized the new nation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) & (b) Kosovo unilaterally declared its independence on 17 February 2008.
Government's reaction was contained in the Official Spokesperson's response to a question on February 18, 2008. He said:"India has a long standing and consistent policy on the issue of recognition. Recognition is normally accorded on the basis of a country having a defined territory, a duly constituted Government in charge which is accepted by the people and which has effective control over an area of governance. It has been India`s consistent position that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries should be fully respected by all states. We have believed that the Kosovo issue should have been resolved through peaceful means and through consultation and dialogue between the concerned parties. We have taken note of the Unilateral Declaration of Independence by Kosovo. There are several legal issues involved in this Declaration. We are studying the evolving situation.

(c) As per information available, as on 13 March 2008, the countries that have recognised Kosovo are: The United States of America, United Kingdom, France, Afghanistan, Costa Rica, Turkey, Albania, Australia, Senegal, Malaysia, Germany, Latvia, Denmark, Luxembourg, Estonia, Italy, Peru, Belgium, Poland, Switzerland, Austria, Ireland, Iceland, Sweden, The Netherlands, Slovenia and Finland.